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REMARKS

In paragraph 4 of the Action, claims 1, 2, 8, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Saito* (US 2003/0202213).

In paragraph 6 of the Action, claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179).

In paragraph 7 of the Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) in view of *Reed et al.* (US 6,590,996).

In paragraph 8 of the Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) in view of *Hyakutake et al.* (US 7,142,690).

In paragraph 9 of the Action, claims 9, 11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) in view of and *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000).

In paragraph 10 of the Action, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) in view of *Lapstun et al.* (US 6,728,000) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 11 of the Action, claims 12, 14, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over *Gillihan et al.* (US 6,842,262) in view of *Mori* (US 7,027,179) and *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485).

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In paragraph 12 of the Action, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Hernandez* (US 6,650,428).

In paragraph 13 of the Action, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) in view of *Davidson et al.* (US 6,952,485) further in view of *Stefik et al.* (US 2001/00085557).

In response to the rejections, the applicant respectfully submits that the application claims the priority of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-045793, filed on February 24, 2003, which was earlier than the filing date, April 24, 2003, of *Saito* (US 2003/0202213). Accordingly, *Saito* (US 2003/0202213) does not constitute prior art for the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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